



Lower Merion School District
301 East Montgomery Avenue ♦ Ardmore, PA 19003-3399
www.lmsd.org

LMSD Board of School Directors Business Meeting Highlights

Sept. 16, 2019, Business Meeting

For a complete agenda, visit the [BoardDocs section](#) of the District website.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION ON ACTION ITEMS

No comment was given at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Dr. Gilbert recommended the re-appointment of Superintendent Copeland's Employment Agreement for another five years, from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025, under the terms of the contract presented. The Board unanimously approved and Mr. Copeland thanked the Board for the opportunity to continue to serve.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Copeland recommended the re-appointment of Dr. Eveslage's Assistant Superintendent Employment Agreement for another five years, from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2025, under the terms of the contract presented. The Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Copeland took a minute reflect on Assistant Superintendent Eveslage's reappointment and contributions to the District over the past 4 years.

Mr. Copeland shared the following highlights:

Our 10th day enrollment report is 8800 students. Just five years ago, it was 8053 students. This increased enrollment is what necessitates the new middle school for grades 5-8. That school will open up space in both elementary and middle schools. He added that the new zoning code being considered by the Township could hamper future Boards' ability to provide proper facilities if additional growth occurs. To be proactive, the Board has requested the ability to build additional hard surface areas the Penn Wynne Elementary and additional classroom space at Harriton High School.

Nine Lower Merion School District students were recently honored for their submissions to the 2019 Philadelphia Young Playwrights (PYP) Festival. Franky Lockenour, who attended Bala Cynwyd Middle School until her family recently moved out of state, won first place in the middle school category for her piece entitled *Parents Trapped*.

Lower Merion High School recently accepted the donation of two five-star flags from the Cassia-Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge. The flags are replicas of one currently in the Smithsonian that honor LM alumnus Gen. "Hap" Arnold, who was the only service member to hold the rank of 5-star general in both the Army and the Air Force.

Supt. Copeland also offered congratulations to Welsh Valley Middle School social studies teacher Chris Gari, who was recently named among the "2019 Top Teachers Around the Main Line and Western Suburbs" by *Main Line Today*.

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the hearing examiner's resolution for the removal of students from the rolls who are not residents of Lower Merion Township or Narberth Borough.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Board approved personnel actions across the District, including staff hires, re-hires and reclassifications for the 2019-2020 school year.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Dr. Vann Lynch reported on the Sept. 4, 2019, meeting of the Curriculum Committee, which included the recommendation to hire Dr. Plucker to work on the Gifted Program redesign, along with professional development for educators to identify gifted students, sharing information about the program with stakeholders and other changes to improve the Gifted Program.

The Committee also heard a presentation from Dr. Paul on the Academic Support program.

And, the Committee also heard a presentation on the One-to-One Tutoring Initiative, in which students showed both higher confidence and better academic performance.

The Board approved the following overnight trips:

- BCMS 7th grade Communique to Williamsburg, Va., In October
- WVMS Waterbound to Dingman's Ferry, Pa., in September
- HHS IB 11th grade to Horsham, Pa., in October

STUDENT SERVICES

The Board approved the following:

- Educational service agreements for students receiving non-District Educational Services
- Contract with the CCIU to provide a psychologist for the school year
- Temporary staffing agreement with the MCIU for behavior management services
- Contract with Person Driven Clinical Solutions for counseling/consultation for students with disabilities.

BUSINESS OFFICE AND FINANCE

Mr. Driscoll gave a report on the Sept. 12, 2019, Facilities/Purchasing Committee Meeting reviewing the items that were recommended for tonight's agenda along with a presentation from LMHS staff about how the library space could be reconfigured in the future as an innovation space.

The Board approved the following items:

- List of Bills reviewed through the Facilities and Purchasing Committee as well as the August 2019 LMSD Financial Report.
- Accepted with gratitude the donations of:
 - A bicycle rack valued at \$800, a group of outdoor benches valued at \$3000 and a mural in honor of retired principal Anne Heffron valued at \$4000 to be placed in the Merion Elementary School cafeteria from the Merion HSA
 - A utility trailer valued at \$5000 from the Lower Merion High School Crew Association to the LMHS Crew Team

Dr. Gilbert opened up the meeting at this time for Audience Recognition on Action Items Only as there was confusion in the beginning of the meeting about a topic being an action item.

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION ON ACTION ITEMS

A Penn Wynne Township Commissioner urged the District not to approve a contract with Chester Valley Engineers for plans for an expansion at Harriton High School. He stated that the impervious surface limits at HHS and WVMS were raised because the District wanted more impervious surface at the new middle school site, creating a "loophole" that shouldn't be exploited.

Dr. Gilbert explained (and Mr. Lill confirmed) that the idea of expanding science classrooms at HHS has been under discussion for many years. It is not a result of the recent impervious surface increase. And in fact, the proposed classroom expansion would fit under the zoning that was in existence prior to the District's purchase of 1860 W. Montgomery Ave.

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

The Board approved the following items:

- Contracts to repair the security system at HHS, sealcoat at GES, replace chiller control interface at LMHS and repair lift at BCMS
- PlanCon Part(s) A and B submissions to Pa. Dept. of Education for new middle school project
- Agreement with Reynolds Construction LLC for construction management services for the demolition of existing structures at 1860 W. Montgomery
- Advance Protection Co. proposal for security services at 1860 W. Montgomery
- An amendment to the professional services agreement with Spiezle Architectural Group
- Change orders for masonry façade restoration at PVES and hazardous material abatement for 1860 W. Montgomery Ave.
- Professional services contract with Chester Valley Engineers for a tentative sketch plan for classroom additions at HHS
 - Mr. Federman stated that he felt it was premature to vote on this issue
 - A discussion ensued and the contract was approved

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Robinson reported on the Sept. 6, 2019, of the Policy Committee Meeting, where changes to AR 915 School Related Organizations and AR 207 Attendance were discussed. Future discussions are planned for Policy 215 Promotion and Retention and Policy 516 Drug and Alcohol Testing. Other Policies were referred to the Strategic Plan Committee for review. These are:

- Policy/AR 132 Homework
- Policy 216 High School Graduation Requirements Instrumental Music
- Policy 213 Grading of Student Progress
- Policy 133 Academic Class Rank
- Policy/AR 235 Student Rights and Responsibilities into which the following Policies are to be incorporated:
 - Policy/AR 224 Care of School Property
 - Policy/AR 234 Restriction on Use of Electronic Devices

NEW BUSINESS

First Readings:

- Policy 220 Courses Beyond Instructional Program
- Policy 240 Make-up Work Because of Absence (proposed for repeal, incorporate into Policy 207)
- Policy 241 Releasing Pupils During the School Day (proposed for repeal, incorporate into Policy 207)
- Policy 242 Obtaining a High School Diploma in Less Than Four Years
- Policy 243 Campus Privileges (proposed for repeal)
- Policy 255 Confidentiality of Social Security Numbers (proposed for repeal)
- Policy/AR 800 Records Management

AUDIENCE RECOGNITION

A Wynnewood resident asked if the Gifted Program Evaluation is looking at gender and she wondered how many days the psychologist would be employed by the District. Ms. Fraser answered that the psychologist will work as long as the staff psychologist is out on medical leave. Mr. Copeland added that gender could be looked as part of the Gifted Program Evaluation.

A Penn Valley resident asked why it was important to guarantee impervious surface rather than submit a campus plan. Mr. Lill explained that the proposed zoning bases impervious surface on the nearest residential district and then adds 10%, which would put the HHS campus at 30%, so HHS is already over that limit. He added that the Campus Plan idea isn't finalized, so the District can't comment on that. Mr. Copeland added that the campus plan isn't practical for public schools that cannot limit enrollment.

A student from Bala Cynwyd stated that the Board should be hesitant to vote on additional science classrooms if they don't understand what that means; he was also interested in knowing whether the repeal of campus privileges means an end to Lunch and Learn. Ms. Shafer explained that campus privilege refers to students going off-campus, not to Lunch and Learn.

SUNSHINE ACT

Mr. Roos, Solicitor from Wisler Pearlstine, reported when the Board of School Directors met in an Executive Session and the topic discussed.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Board Meetings: (at 8:00 p.m.)

Monday, Oct. 14, 2019 – Education Committee Meeting in the Administration Board Room

Monday, Oct. 21, 2019 – Regular Business Board Meeting in the LMHS Auditorium

Committee Meetings: (at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room, unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 – Communications Committee
Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019 – Curriculum Committee
Friday, Oct. 11, 2019 – Policy Committee
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019 – Facilities and Purchasing Committee



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